

(d) whether the Vigilance Department initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt; and

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) As a sequel to some complaints, investigations were undertaken relating to corruption and possession of assets disproportionate to the known source of income, against 3 Class-I Officers of the Ministry. However, after investigation, the cases were closed as no substance was found in the complaints.

(c) No such complaints were received during 1995-96 in respect of the employees working in the Ministry.

(d) There is no bar to initiating *suo moto* action against the suspected dishonest and corrupt officials.

(e) No such review has been undertaken.

Fish Landing Sites

3320. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to update the techno feasibility studies done on potential landing sites for fish on the coast of Orissa State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the economic potential of each such site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

In order to update the Master Plan, in October, 1996, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore, in collaboration with the State Government of Orissa, have carried out pre-investment studies on probable fishing harbours and fish landing centres and short listed the following sites for carrying out detailed techno-economic studies including model studies, wherever necessary. As per present pre-investment studies, the data on potential of the proposed sites is summarised as follows:

	Name of Fishing Harbour Site proposed	District	Fish Catch in MT	No. of fishing vessels operating	No. of Fishermen	No. of Active Fishermen	No. of Villages
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Dhamra Stage-II	Bhadrak	2048	250	18,744	5,527	1
2.	Chudamani	Bhadrak	3803	543	11,669	6,006	1
3.	Bahabalpur	Balasore	9509	650	8,000	3,000	1

Transportation Charges on Foodgrains

3321. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flour Mills in Jammu and Kashmir region to whom wheat was supplied during 1996-97 and the rates at which the wheat was supplied in the State;

(b) the expenditure incurred by FCI for transporting of foodgrains and sugar during each of the last three years;

(c) the rates at which the transportation charges of foodgrains from Jammu to Srinagar are being paid by FCI;

(d) the reasons for supplying wheat and rice at higher rates in Jammu than in Kashmir Valley; and

(e) the losses/profit to FCI in supplying of rations to each region of the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) During 1996-97, wheat under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) was issued to 29 flour Mills of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Out of 86,490 tonnes issued, 10,400 tonnes of wheat was lifted ex-Punjab, by the State Roller Flour Mills on the following prices:—

Sl. No.	Period	Prices of wheat in Rs. per MT	
		Srinagar	Jammu
1.	April to July 1996	4500	4500
2.	August, '96 to 17th Sept '96	4655	4655
3.	18th Sept '96 to 3rd Feb '97	5005	5005
4.	4th Feb '97 to 10th Mar '97	5300	5200
5.	11th Mar '97 to 31st Mar '97	5150	5100

(b) The following amounts were paid by the Food Corporation of India for movement of foodgrains to Kashmir:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	9.93
1995-96	27.04
1996-97	31.93

(c) At present the Food Corporation of India is transporting foodgrains from Jammu to Srinagar @ Rs. 75 per qtl.

(d) The issue price of foodgrains is the same throughout the country.

(e) Like other States, the foodgrains are supplied to Jammu & Kashmir at subsidised rates, subsidy being paid by the Central Government. Therefore, there is no question of loss or profit to FCI.

Lack of Sophisticated Packaging Technology in Food Processing Industries

3322. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA
MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of sophisticated packaging technology and high cost of packaging have acted as a barrier to the country's export growth in this Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the shortcomings in the food processing industries pointed out by the Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the losses suffered on this count during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether food processing and other agro based industries have been suffering a grave disadvantage vis-a-vis international competitors;

(d) if so, whether packaging in India costs upto 50% of the product, the manner in which it compares with the International standard and cost; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to overcome the shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) Technology improvement is an ongoing process and scope always exists for its upgradation. enhancement of export depends on several factors including packaging. Export of processed food has been steadily increasing over the years.

(c) Growth of any industry including food processing and other agro based industries would depend on several factors such as quality of the products, competitive cost, sale price etc. Cost of packaging is one of the factors affecting the price.

(d) Packagings are of different types to suit the products packet and naturally the cost of packaging varies and is estimated to range from 15 to 30%.

(e) Various steps taken by the Govt. for promotion of food processing industries *inter-alia* include reductions of excise and customs duties on certain packaging materials like glass, paper and paper boards, aluminum foils and plastic. Ministry of Food Processing Industries